

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 07875 261331Z

47

ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 A-01 /013 W

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R 261415Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7788

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 7875

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, AFIN, AG, TS

SUBJ: RENOVATION OF VILLA MONTFELD, PROPERTY 02405

REF: STATE 274972

1. UPON FURTHER CONSIDERATION WITHIN EMBASSY, WE HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION THAT PURCHASE OF ELECTRICAL MATERIAL AND LIGHTING FIXTURES WITH US-OWNED TUNISIAN DINARS FOR USE IN ALGIERS MAY BE CONTRARY TO OUR AGREEMENT WITH GOT THAT SUCH DINARS BE USED ONLY TO MEET US EXPENSES IN TUNISIA. WE WILL, HOWEVER, SEEK CENTRAL BANK APPROVAL FOR THIS CASE AS AN EXCEPTION.

2. TUNISIAN CENTRAL BANK (BCT) AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE TAKING CONTINUOUS INTEREST IN USE OF THESE FUNDS TO ASSURE THAT THE DINARS ARE UTILIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR AGREEMENT AND WITH EXISTING TUNISIAN FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS. CENTRAL BANK ABOUT A YEAR AGO TURNED DOWN REQUEST FOR PAYMENT IN TUNIS FOR ELECTRIC GENERATING EQUIPMENT TO BE USED IN OTHER EMBASSIES. FOR SAME REASON, EMBASSY HAS TURNED DOWN RECENT REQUESTS FROM EMBASSIES ROME AND JIDDA FOR PURCHASE OF FURNITURE AND OTHER FURNISHINGS USING US-OWNED SURPLUS CURRENCY IN TUNISIA. IN VIEW OF THIS BACKGROUND, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT OUR REQUEST TO BCT FOR PERMISSION TO UNDERTAKE SUBJECT TRANSACTION WILL BE APPROVED.

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PAGE 02 TUNIS 07875 261331Z

3. PROCEEDING WITH TRANSACTION WITHOUT INFORMING
GOT RUNS SERIOUS RISK OF BEING DISCOVERED AND CREA-
TING EMBARRASSMENT IN OUR RELATIONS WHICH COULD
HAMPER CONTINUING USE OF OUR DINARS FOR OTHER LEGI-
TIMATE PURPOSES.

4. WILL ADVISE RESULTS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOT
OFFICIALS.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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